

# issues

## Message from the State Veterinarian

**HAPPY NEW** Year from the Indiana State Board of Animal Health! With the start of a new year comes new issues and concerns for BOAH. Although we spend most of our time working with traditional livestock and companion animals, recent concerns about diseases of fish, particularly viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), have prompted discussions for an action plan to preserve the health of Indiana's wild and farmed fish populations.

While aquaculture is a new focus, we have partnered with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for many years on a broad range of animal health issues including rabies, chronic wasting disease and avian influenza.

Beginning this year, disease test results and paperwork will be reviewed jointly by BOAH and DNR. Teaming the expertise of these two agencies will ensure the highest health standards for farmed and wild fish imports. Dr. Jennifer Strasser, field veterinarian, has been designated as BOAH's aquaculture specialist.

Within state law, BOAH maintains a list of animal diseases that must be reported to our agency because of international trade agreements, including five that infect fish. Testing and pre-entry reviews are common practice in many livestock/animal industries.

While not currently found in Indiana, VHS has been a growing problem in the Great Lake states for several years. VHS has been divided into acute, chronic, and nervous forms of the disease. In the acute form, clinical signs include darkening of the body, anemia and protrusion of the eyes. Hemorrhages may be seen in the gills and eyes. The course of acute disease is brief and mortality is high. In the chronic form, infected fish blacken and the gills lose color. Protrusion of the eyes, anemia and fluid accumulations in the abdomen are often seen. Hemorrhages are less common than in the acute form and mortality is usually low. VHS is shed in the urine, feces and sexual fluids. Transmission can occur through the water or by contact.

For more information about reportable diseases in Indiana visit us at [www.boah.in.gov](http://www.boah.in.gov).

Bret D. Marsh, DVM  
Indiana State Veterinarian

## BOAH Board Actions

**DURING A** special session December meeting, Board members took the following actions to review and vote on a proposal to support the addition of a Bio-Safety Level 3 (BSL-3) Research and Diagnostic Laboratory capability to the Purdue Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. If approved by the 2007 General Assembly, this lab would be funded, up to \$ 30 million by the state's Department of Administration. The lab would be established for research, training and diagnostic investigations involving highly contagious micro-organisms that cause disease in humans and animals. It would serve as a state-wide resource for Indiana.

## Companion Animal/Equine

**EQUINE HERPES** virus (EHV-1) has been diagnosed in horses in Florida as well as California. The first case reported was a horse imported from Europe through the USDA New York Animal

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Import Center on Nov. 29, 2006. This recent outbreak has caused some equine facilities throughout the two infected states to be quarantined.

With the winter show and racing circuits in full swing, BOAH urges practitioners to educate clients regarding biosecurity and avoiding possible infection. Horse owners should also confirm entry requirements to Florida and California prior to shipment.

Although EHV-1 can be a serious disease of horses and the virus can spread through the air from respiratory infection, transmission generally requires direct or close contact between horses. Transmission can also occur through contaminated equipment, clothing, and hands. Horses with clinical signs should be isolated and kept 40 feet or more from other horses.

For more information regarding EHV-1 and current quarantine status in affected states visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/pdf\\_files/equine\\_herpes\\_virus.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/pdf_files/equine_herpes_virus.pdf) or contact BOAH Dr. Sandi Norman, Director, Companion Animal Division at [snorman@boah.in.gov](mailto:snorman@boah.in.gov) or 317/227-0323.

**RABIES GARNERED** much attention in 2006. The death of a young Indiana girl infected with the disease, as well as an increased number of six-month rabies quarantines reminds practitioners and pet owners alike of the severity of this disease. Practitioners must educate clients and emphasize the importance of keeping pets current on rabies vaccinations. Indiana law requires that all dogs, cats and ferrets over three months of age have a rabies vaccination administered by a licensed and accredited veterinarian. For more information about rabies visit [www.rabies.in.gov](http://www.rabies.in.gov) or contact Dr. Sandi Norman at [snorman@boah.in.gov](mailto:snorman@boah.in.gov) or 317/227-0323.

## Premise Identification

**PREMISE IDENTIFICATION** has become a household phrase to Indiana's livestock producers. This is evident by the number of premises already registered in the Hoosier state. To date, Indiana has registered nearly 25 thousand premises—an estimated 70 percent registration rate. These outstanding numbers rank Indiana as number three nationally in the premise ID program, behind Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. For more information or to register a premise visit the local USDA-Farm Service Agency or contact Theresa Shuck, ID Programs Specialist, at [tshuck@boah.in.gov](mailto:tshuck@boah.in.gov) or 317/227-0328.

## Cattle/Ruminants

**CHANGES HAVE** been made to Michigan's bovine tuberculosis (TB) zones to increase the effectiveness of the state's disease eradication efforts. A new rule requires breeder cattle on Lower Peninsula farms outside the infected zone to be tested before they are shipped elsewhere for sale. Testing already was required for cattle 18 months and older; now it applies to those 6 months and older. The rule exempts cattle being transported directly to slaughter.

Beginning Mar. 1, 2007, statewide electronic identification eartags will be mandatory throughout Michigan for the movement of cattle from farms. A certificate for movement will be required prior to movement to other tuberculosis zones within Michigan. For more information regarding Michigan's new requirements visit [www.michigan.gov/mda](http://www.michigan.gov/mda).

## Swine

**BETWEEN PREMISE** identification numbers, tattoo numbers, individual identification and permit numbers, the system for identifying pigs can be quite confusing. BOAH

reminds producers of the required identification for movement of pigs:

- *Tattoo number* is the most common means of identifying weanlings and feeder pigs for interstate shipment. This number is acquired by contacting the BOAH Swine Division. BOAH will assign a permanent number to an operation that includes a state identifier. This number should be tattooed on pigs prior to transport, and may be used on unlimited numbers of pigs from that specific herd. This number is used exclusively for this purpose. The premise ID may not be used because other states are not yet recognizing it for interstate movements.
- The *import permit number* is another number required by BOAH. This number is required for pigs entering Indiana and may be obtained by contacting BOAH at 317/227-0311 within 24 hours prior to shipment. The permit number is valid only for 30 days and is good only for one specific shipment date.
- *Unique individual identification*, while not always a number, is required of all pigs except weanling and feeder pigs with a tattoo. Crossbred pigs must have an approved tattoo or an eartag. Ear notches are considered official identification for registered purebred pigs only.
- *Premise identification number* is the newest in this list of identification numbers. Every livestock site that has a unique 911 or postal address should have its own premise ID. Different numbers should be issued for sites not contiguous within an operation. (Land separated by only a county road may be considered contiguous.) Facilities for animals at different stages of production (for example, finishing pigs and sow units) may be one premise, if all are on the same piece of contiguous land. Only one premise ID number is needed when multiple species are on the same premise. The premise ID number is linked to a physical piece of property and will remain as such, regardless of ownership of the animals present. The premise ID number is not a permanent identification for an animal or group of animals. Consider the premise ID number like an address for an animal.

For more information regarding use of premise ID or individual ID for swine; contact Paula Livers at [plivers@boah.in.gov](mailto:plivers@boah.in.gov) or 877-747-3038.

## Animal Surveillance Emergency Response Team

**BOAH's BIOSECURITY** and Emergency Preparedness division is looking forward to meeting with the ASERT teams in the near future.

ASERT brings federal Homeland Security dollars to Indiana communities in a new way to protect human and animal health. Each team has been tasked to work locally, within the region, to be involved with planning and readiness for animal-related emergencies. ASERT members serve as resources to local emergency planners and may be called upon to respond during animal health emergencies in support of BOAH efforts to detect, contain and control diseases. The mission of this program is to increase the capacity of Indiana and its veterinary community to address homeland security issues. This program will result in teams of veterinarians who are prepared to manage animal health emergencies rapidly and effectively.

For more information about the ASERT program, or to apply for a position as an ASERT member in your area, contact Dr. Marianne Ash, Director, Biosecurity Planning, at [mash@boah.in.gov](mailto:mash@boah.in.gov).

## Cervids

**INDIANA'S CERVID** Brucellosis Certification Program has been modified to have the same testing interval requirements as the Cervid Tuberculosis Accreditation Program. Two complete herd tests of all eligible animals are required to become Certified or Accredited. Once Certified or Accredited, a full herd test of all eligible animals must be completed every 3 years.

These program changes will allow herds to be tested for both diseases at the same interval as they were prior to the change of the tuberculosis rules last summer.

Some states may have further testing requirements for animals that move to their state; owners or veterinarians should determine the state-of-destination requirements prior to making final arrangements for movement of cervids to other states.

All herds in Indiana currently Certified-Free of brucellosis will have one year added to their status. All herds that have two complete herd tests will be considered certified and will be granted a 3-year status. BOAH will mail an updated letter to all herd owners that participate in these programs to notify them of their status. For more information regarding the Cervid Brucellosis Certification Program, contact Dr. John Johnston at BOAH at 317/227-0314 or [jjohnston@boah.in.gov](mailto:jjohnston@boah.in.gov).

## Scrapie

**THE RECENT** retirement of Garry Weybright, DVM, of the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS) has led the way for a change in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP). BOAH is pleased to announce that Jennifer Price, Livestock Specialist, will continue Dr. Weybright's work as the Scrapie Flock Certification Program Coordinator.

Currently, Indiana has more than 80 flocks enrolled in the program. This voluntary program is available to all sheep and goat producers. The enrollment procedure is simple and includes annual flock inspections with the reporting of animal movement in and out of the flock. Tamper-evident identification is required to participate in the program and the current "free" interstate eartags meet this requirement. What's more, this program does not limit the introduction of new animals into the flock.

For more information on the certification program, visit the BOAH website at [www.boah.in.gov](http://www.boah.in.gov) or contact Jennifer Price at [jprice@boah.in.gov](mailto:jprice@boah.in.gov) or 317/694-3550.

## DAIRY

**THE DAIRY** Division is undergoing some changes to realign territories for inspectors to improve efficiencies and service. The division will step up communication and education efforts to producers in the coming months. To contact BOAH's Dairy Division call 317/227-0352.